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27 July 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Comments by Paris Journalist on de Gaulle's Trip
to Moscow

SOURCE: AECASSOWARY/59 (usually reliable) from Andre FONTAINE,
Chief of the Internal News Desk of le Monde, in Paris,
a personal acquaintance of A/59

1. A/59 said that FONTAINE has very pro-American views, and that if the Americans were not already cultivating him they should be. FONTAINE travelled in de Gaulle's party during his recent trip to the Soviet Union.

2. FONTAINE told A/59 he noticed a big difference between the attitude of Soviet officials and the general public toward Western travellers. Soviet officials try to show a reserve toward everything Western. Yuri ZHUKOV, for example, former correspondent of Izvestia, whom FONTAINE knew in Paris as a carefree partying type, was a different man back home.

3. De Gaulle was unhappy about the reception he received from officials in the Soviet Union. BREZHNEV and KOSYGIN behaved in such a way as to make it impossible for de Gaulle to be warm and human. It was impossible for de Gaulle to get through to them. De Gaulle was offended in Kiev, because although he was greeted warmly by the general public, there was no official welcome extended.

4. FONTAINE said it appeared like cultural exchanges between France and the Soviet Union are going to be a one way affair and the only thing accomplished diplomatically was that there will be an exchange of consulates between Marseilles and Leningrad. He felt the Soviet regime is under very heavy pressure from the masses and that it was trying desperately to check the evolution which is inevitable.

5. Academ Gorod, which they visited in Novosibirsk, is permeated with Western ideas and Western styles. FONTAINE commented that it was lucky for the Soviets there was 6,000 kilometers between Europe and Novosibirsk. He found that some of the individuals in Academ Gorod had special permission to receive and read Western-published journals, and that 25 individuals had subscriptions to le Monde.

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